

Message Text

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EXDIS-DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS; PFOR
SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. FURTHER DETAILS ON TEHRAN OPEC MEETING

THE ORGANIZATION OF PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES (OPEC) CONCLUDED ITS MEETING IN TEHRAN DECEMBER 23 BY ANNOUNCING A NEW "GOVERNMENT TAKE" OF SEVEN DOLLARS PER BARREL FOR THE PERSIAN GULF MARKER CRUDE. THE POSTED PRICE FOR THIS OIL WILL THEREFORE BE 11.651 DOLLARS PER BARREL, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1974. THE SHAH ANNOUNCED THAT A MECHANISM MUST BE FOUND TO ASSURE THAT OIL PRICES KEEP PACE WITH INFLATION. HE ALSO PROPOSED A NEW INTERNATIONAL AID FUND TO ASSIST POORER STATES WHICH WOULD BE HARD HIT BY THE PRICE RISE. (UNCLASSIFIED) TEHRAN 9031 AND 9032, 12/23, AND REWTER RNR 589, 12/24.

2. SAUDIS DELIGHTED WITH ARAMCO OFFER

SECRET

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SAUDI MINISTER OF PETROLEUM YAMANI HAS TOLD AMBASSADOR AKINS IN JIDDA THAT HE IS "DELIGHTED" WITH ARAMCO'S OFFER TO TURN THE COMPANY OVER TO THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT,

WITH ARRANGEMENTS TO INSURE AMERICAN ACCESS TO THE OIL
"FOR A LONG TIME TO COME." YAMANI URGED THAT THIS DE-
VELOPMENT BE CLOSELY HELD. SHOULD KUWAIT LEARN OF IT,
THEY WILL NATIONALIZE THE KUWAIT OIL COMPANY IMMEDIATELY,
AND SAUDI ARABIA WILL HAVE TO FOLLOW SUIT. (SECRET)
JIDDA 5637, 12/22 (EXDIS).

3. NIGERIAN OIL SALE CONCLUDES WITH UNCERTAIN RESULTS

THE NIGERIAN OIL SALE CONCLUDED DECEMBER 22 WITHOUT THE
DESPERATE BIDDING ANTICIPATED BY THE NIGERIANS. SEALED
BIDS RANGED FROM UNDER \$10 PER BARREL TO MITSUBISHI'S
OFFER OF \$22.60. ONLY THREE FIRMS WERE WILLING TO MATCH
THE HIGH BID AND INITIALED WHAT ARE SAID TO BE NON-BINDING
CONTRACTS FOR A TOTAL OF 140,000 BPD (OUT OF 320,000
OFFERED). EMBASSY LAGOS REPORTS THAT THE BIDDERS WERE
GENERALLY DISMAYED BY THE AWKWARDNESS OF THE FINAL BIDDING
PROCEDURES AND ITS UNCERTAIN RESULTS. (CONFIDENTIAL)
LAGOS 10240, 12/22.

4. USEC SEES COMMUNITY TROUBLED

THE EC HAS SERIOUS PROBLEMS AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE
THE BASIS FOR FUNDAMENTAL IMPROVEMENT SOON, NOTES USEC
BRUSSELS, ALTHOUGH NO ONE EXPECTS A RUPTURE OF THE NINE.
THE ENERGY CRISIS AND THE WEAKNESS OF MOST EUROPEAN
GOVERNMENTS POSE A MAJOR CHALLENGE TO THE EC AND THREATEN
TO FREEZE THE PROCESS OF INTEGRATION. THE STRAINS IN US
RELATIONS WITH THE EC ARE LIKELY TO REMAIN FOR SOME TIME
AND WILL REQUIRE A COMBINATION OF FIRMNESS AND CAREFUL,
PATIENT HANDLING. (CONFIDENTIAL) EC BRUSSELS 7454,
12/22.

5. TAIPEI REACTS TO REPORT OF PRC ARMS PURCHASE IN US

A NEWSPAPER FREQUENTLY USED BY THE TAIPEI GOVERNMENT TO
SECRET

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AIR ITS VIEWS HAS COMMENTED ON THE RECENT NEWSWEEK RE-
PORT THAT THE PRC MAY BE SEEKING ARMS PURCHASES FROM
THE US. THE NOTABLY RESTRAINED AND COMPOSED EDITORIAL
DOUBTED THAT THE US WOULD TURN DOWN SUCH A REQUEST.
EMBASSY TAIPEI FEELS THIS MAY BE PART OF A GOVERNMENT
EFFORT TO PREPARE THE PUBLIC FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS
IN US-PRC RELATIONS. (CONFIDENTIAL) TAIPEI 7615, 12/22.
KISSINGER

SECRET

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